

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 1700

Application No. 09/763,135

Paper Dated: November 20, 2003

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of July 1, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 3848-010270

IN THE CLAIMS – Following is the list of claims and their status:

1. (Currently Amended) An underground reservoir for storing liquid products, consisting of ~~comprising~~ an inner, main reservoir and an outer, secondary reservoir consisting of ~~comprising~~ a coating layer, said coating layer consisting of ~~being formed by~~ an inner layer made from a paper material and an outer layer made of polyurethane.

2. (Previously Presented) The underground reservoir of claim 1, wherein said paper material is a latex-based paper.

3. (Previously Presented) The underground reservoir of claim 1, wherein said outer layer made of polyurethane is made without the addition of any solvents.

4. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing an underground reservoir comprising the steps of:

providing an inner, main reservoir, and

covering an outer surface of said main reservoir with a first coating layer consisting of ~~made from~~ a paper material, and applying a second ~~polyurethane-based~~ coating layer consisting of polyurethane over said first coating layer.

5. (Original) The process according to claim 4, additionally comprising the step of jet-blasting portions of the outer surface of said main reservoir to enhance the adhesion of said first coating layer.

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6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein said paper material is a latex-based paper.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein said second polyurethane-based coating layer is made of polyurethane, without the addition of any solvents.

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 7, wherein said second polyurethane-based coating layer has a desired minimum thickness of at least 2.5 mm.

9. (Previously Presented) The underground reservoir of claim 1, wherein the main reservoir is made of carbon steel.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the main reservoir is made of carbon steel.